

Luxembourg – Foreign Policy

Since Luxembourg is landlocked, its foreign policy focusses on good-neighbour relations and is influenced by EEC policies. The country attaches great importance to its relations with France and also maintains close economic and political ties with Belgium and the Netherlands. Although German-speaking, Luxembourg has affinities with France and has been distanced somewhat from Germany by two world wars.

Luxembourg's foreign relations are conducted chiefly in multinational and multilateral institutions, including the EEC, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), and the United Nations (UN). A Benelux country and a member of the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union, Luxembourg was one of the founding members of the EEC and is promoting greater and more effective European economic and political union. Luxembourg also takes part in la Francophonie.

The views expressed by Luxembourg in major international institutions, especially on security and disarmament, East-West dialogue, human rights and other foreign policy issues, often resemble those of Canada. When it held the presidency of the Western European Union (1986-87), Luxembourg led the revitalization of this organization, which aims to improve consultation and cohesion among Europeans on security and defence issues.

Luxembourg holds the presidency of the European Council from January to June 1991. It will ensure there is follow-up to intergovernmental conferences on EC political, economic and monetary union, and it will improve the co-ordination of member state positions on major international issues.